

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
COL 5037S SLA SLA325F

MAGIC PRAGUE
QUESTIONS OF LITERARY CITYSCAPE

Fall 2014
We 10-12, Graduates 10-1 TBA,

INSTRUCTOR: Veronika Ambros

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Office Hours: Thursday 12-1, St. Joseph Street Alumni Hall, #405, We 1-2 Centre for
Comparative Literature BT; or by appointment

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Prague as a meeting point of different cultures attracted a variety of artists and scholars. Inspired by the book *Magic Prague* of the Italian literary scholar Angelo Ripellino, this class explores the myth of Prague in selected works by Jan Neruda, Franz Kafka, R.M. Rilke, Paul Wegener, G. Apollinaire, B. Hrabal, and others. A number of secondary texts will help to discuss questions of literary cityscapes, of centre and margin, of multiculturalism and nationalism in different genres. Readings in English and for the specialists in the original.

Requirements:**Undergraduate students:**

Attendance and participation - 20%

2 essays (5 pages, 30% each) - 60%

10 reader responses every class - 20% due every Monday at noon

Deadlines:

First essay: October 17

Second essay: November 28

Graduate students:

Attendance and participation: 10%

Presentation: 20%

1 essay (20 page) 50%

10 reader responses every class - 20% due Monday noon

Deadline: December 5

The written assignments have to follow the MLA guidelines: www.mla handbook.org

The following books can be purchased:

Neruda – *Prague Tales*

<http://www.amazon.com/Prague-Tales-Central-European-Classics/dp/9639116238>

Ripellino – *Magic Prague*

<http://www.amazon.com/Magic-Prague-Angelo-Maria-Ripellino/dp/0330337793>

Weil – *Life with a Star* <http://www.amazon.com/Life-Star-Jewish-Lives-Jiri/dp/0810116855>

Kundera – *Ignorance*

[http://www.amazon.com/Ignorance-A-Novel-Milan-](http://www.amazon.com/Ignorance-A-Novel-Milan-Kundera/dp/0060002093/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1408124915&sr=8-1&keywords=0060002093)

[Kundera/dp/0060002093/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1408124915&sr=8-](http://www.amazon.com/Ignorance-A-Novel-Milan-Kundera/dp/0060002093/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1408124915&sr=8-1&keywords=0060002093)

[1&keywords=0060002093](http://www.amazon.com/Ignorance-A-Novel-Milan-Kundera/dp/0060002093/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1408124915&sr=8-1&keywords=0060002093)

Program

1 September 12 Introduction

2 September 19 Legends and Poetry

All

Jirásek, Alois, *Old Czech Legends* 1992 4-30; "Tales of the Ghetto" 101-112.

Ingeborg Bachmann, "Prague, January '64" 140

---. "Bohemia Lies by the Sea" 141

Paul Celan, "In Prague" 138

Allen Ginsberg, "Kral Majales" 150

František Halas, "Mala Strana Night Vision" 93, "Prague" 94

Nazim Hikmet Faust's House,

Vítězslav Nezval, "City of Spires" 88, "Prague with Fingers of Rain" 90

Philippe Soupault, "To Prague" 85

in Delbos, Stephan ed. *From a Terrace in Prague A Prague Poetry Anthology* Prague, Litteraria Pragensia, 2011

Daniela Hodrová "I See a Great City..." In *Prague*, Paul Wilson, ed., San Francisco: Whereabouts Press, 1995, 3-10.

Michael Huig, "Prague 1900. From Provincial Capital to Metropolis" [Prague 1900 : poetry and ecstasy](#) / Edwin Becker, Roman Prahla, Petr Wittlich editors. Amsterdam : Van Gogh Museum ; Zwolle : Waanders Uitgevers, 1999, 9-22.

Graduates

<http://fairuselab.net/accessibility/walter-benjamin-the-return-of-the-flaneur-1929/accessed-02/09/2012>

Viewing: *Student from Prague /Golem*

3 September 26 The City as a Small Town

Undergraduates „How it happened...“, "Mr. Rysanek and Mr.Schlegel, Three Lilies „

Graduates Jan Neruda *Prague Tales [Povídky malostranské]*

Additional Readings:

Mumford, Lewis. *The City in History: Its Origins, Its Transformations, and Its Prospects*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1961. 3-10.

Graduates

Certeau, Michel de. "Walking in the City" *The Practice of Everyday Life*. 1984, Berkeley and Los Angeles, California London. England. University of California Press, 91-110

4 October 3 Multiculturalism and Nationalism

Rilke "Hradčany", „Out of Smíchov“ Delbos 36-7;
 J.S.Machar Old Town Square“ Delbos 83,
 A. Sova „Old and new Prague“, Delbos 34-35.

Rainer Maria Rilke "King Bohusch" in *Two Stories of Prague*, Foreword7-54

Additional Readings:

Angela Esterhammer, trs., intro. Hanover, N.H. : University Press of New England, 1994, IX-54.

Graduates Mikhail Bakhtin, „Chronotope“ 243-258

5 October 10 City as Tourist Attraction**All**

Seifert, Jaroslav "[The Plague Monument](#)" *Cross currents*. Volume: 3 (1984), pp. 135-146

Guillaume Apollinaire "The Wandering Jew" [Le Passant de Prague], New York, Doubleday, 1967, 3-16.

---. "Zone" "It's Raining" In Guillaume Apollinaire *Selected Writings*. Roger Shattuck, transl. New York New Directions Pub. Corp., 1971, 116, 170-171.

Graduates

Roland Barthes "Semiology and Urbanism" In. Roland Barthes *The Semiotic Challenge*. New York: Hill and Wang, 1988: 191-20.

Alexander Gelley. "City Texts: Representation, Semiology, Urbanism." In Mark Poster ed. *Politics, Theory and Contemporary Culture*. New York: Columbia UP, 1993: 237-259.

6 October 17 Prague between Reality and Imagination**All**

Franz Kafka *Description of a Struggle* – [Beschreibung eines Kampfes], In Franz Kafka *The Complete stories*, New York, Schocken, 9-51.

Additional Readings:

Wagenbach Klaus. "Prague at the Turn of the Century" in Anderson, Mark (ed.). *Reading Kafka. Prague, Politics and the Fin de Siècle*. New York: Schocken, 1989: 25-53.

Franz Kafka "Diary" Excerpt in Anderson, Mark (ed.). *Reading Kafka. Prague, Politics and the Fin de Siècle*. New York: Schocken, 1989: 259-262.

Graduates

Deleuze Gilles and Guattari Félix "What is a Minor Literature?" – In *Mississippi Review*, Vol. 11, No. 3, Essays Literary Criticism (Winter/Spring, 1983), 13-33
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/20133921/> accessed 05/09/2012

7 October 24 Hašek's Prague and her "Mental Life"

All

Jaroslav Hašek "The Society for the Purging of Prague" "A Psychiatric Mystery"; In: Jaroslav Hašek *Little stories by a great master*; Radko Pytlík ed; trans. Doris Kožišková; Vladmir Procházka illustrations. Prague: Orbis Press, 1984.

Additional Reading:

Kosik, Karel: "Hašek and Kafka" *Cross currents* Volume 2 (1983), pp. 127-136.

Simmel, Georg, "The Metropolis and the Mental Life" In: *The Blackwell City Reader*. Gary Bridge and Sophie Watson eds., Malden, Oxford, and Melbourne: Blackwell, 2002, 11-19.

Graduates Jaroslav Hašek *The Good Soldier Švejk and his Fortunes in the World War* part I; [*Osudy dobrého vojáka Švejka za světové války*. English.] Transl. Cecil Parrott. London: Heinemann, 1973.

8 October 31 Prague as the Set of the Process

Franz Kafka *The Trial* [*Der Proceß*]

All

Graduates

Goebel Rolf, "The exploration of the modern city in The Trial" In *The Cambridge Companion to Kafka*. Julian Preece ed. University of Kent at Canterbury Cambridge University Press 2002 42-60.

9 November 7 Magic Prague

All

Angelo Ripellino *Magic Prague* Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994

Čapek. "The Poet", The Experiment of Professor Rous," "The Footprints" in *Tales from two pockets*; translated from the Czech and with an introduction by Norma Comrada. Povídky z druhé kapsy. North Haven, Catbird Press, 1994, 54-64, 85-91, 128-136.

10 November 14 Stars in the Golden City

Jiří Weil *Life with a Star*

Additional Readings:

(U) Jorge Luis Borges "The Secret Miracle" *Labyrinths*, Toronto, New Directions, 1962: 88-94.

Derek Sayer "Modernism, Seen from Prague, March 1937" *Artl@s Bulletin* Volume 3 Issue 1, 19-29.

Graduates

de Certeau, Michel (1985) 'Practices of Space', in Marshall Blonsky (ed.), *On Signs* (The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland, 1985)

Viewing:

Veit Harlan *Die Goldene Stadt* [The Golden City, 1942]

11 November 21 The "Belly" of Prague

All

Bohumil Hrabal *To Loud a Solitude* Cross currents. Volume 5(1986), pp. 278-332.

[Cross Currents](http://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/pageviewer-idx?c=crossc;cc=crossc;q1=Hrabal%2C%20Bohumil;rgn=author;view=image;seq=00000290;idno=ANW0935.1986.001;node=ANW0935.1986.001%3A25) <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/pageviewer-idx?c=crossc;cc=crossc;q1=Hrabal%2C%20Bohumil;rgn=author;view=image;seq=00000290;idno=ANW0935.1986.001;node=ANW0935.1986.001%3A25>

Hrabal, Bohumil. [Want to See Golden Prague?](#) Cross currents. / 1990, Volume: 9 (1990), pp. 407-411

Additional Readings:

Peter Stalybrass, "The City: the Sewer, the Gaze and the Contaminating Touch" *The Politics and Poetics of Transgression*. Ithaca, New York Cornell UP, 1993. 125-147

Graduates

Foucault, Michel. "Of Other Spaces." Michel Foucault, info. Web. 20 April 2013.

12 November 28 Nostalgia for Prague?

Kundera Milan *Ignorance* Linda Asher Trans. New York:HarperCollins, 2002

Gleber, Anke "Female Flanerie and the *Symphony of the City*. In *Women in the Metropolis* Katharina von Ankum ed. Berkeley, University of California Press, 1997, 67-88.

Additional Readings:

Graduates

Jáchym Topol *Výlet k nádražní hale = A trip to the train station* Alex Zucker, trans. illustroval Michal Cihlář. Praha : Plus, 2011

Hana Wirth-Nesher. "Impartial Maps: Reading and Writing Cities" [Handbook of urban studies \[electronic resource\] / edited by Ronan Paddison](#). London ; Thousand Oaks, Calif. : SAGE, 2001. 52-66

Selected Readings

Primary Texts

- Borges Jorge Luis "The Secret Miracle" *Labyrinths*, Toronto, New Directions, 1962: 88-94. Print
- Čapek K. *Tales from two pockets*; translated from the Czech and with an introduction by Norma Comrada. North Haven, CT : Catbird Press, 1994. Print
- . Čapek *Four Plays*; translated and introduced by Peter Majer and Cathy Porter. Plays. English. Selections. London: Methuen Drama, 1999. Print
- Delbos, Stephan ed. *From a Terrace in Prague A Prague Poetry Anthology* Prague, Litteraria Pragensia, 2011. Print.
- Harlan Veit *Die Goldene Stadt* [The Golden City, 1942], Film
- Hašek Jaroslav *The Good Soldier Švejk and his Fortunes in the World War part I; [Osudy dobrého vojáka Švejka za světové války. English.]* Transl. Cecil Parrott. London: Heinemann, 1973. Print.
- . *Little stories by a great master* [compiled by Radko Pytlík ; translation by Doris Kožišková ; illustrations by Vladimír Procházka]. Prague: Orbis Press, 1984. Print.
- Hodrová Daniela. "I See a Great City..." In *Prague*, Paul Wilson, ed., San Francisco: Whereabouts Press, 1995, 3-10. Print.
- Hrabal Bohumil *To Loud a Solitude* Cross currents. Volume 5(1986), pp. 278-332.
[Cross Currents](http://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/pageviewer-idx?c=crossc;cc=crossc;q1=Hrabal%2C%20Bohumil;rgn=author;view=image;seq=0000290;idno=ANW0935.1986.001;node=ANW0935.1986.001%3A25) <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/pageviewer-idx?c=crossc;cc=crossc;q1=Hrabal%2C%20Bohumil;rgn=author;view=image;seq=0000290;idno=ANW0935.1986.001;node=ANW0935.1986.001%3A25>
- . [Want to See Golden Prague?](#) *Cross currents*. Volume: 9 (1990), pp. 407-411
- Kafka Franz *The Trial*. Mike Mitchell. trans, introduction and notes Ritchie Robertson. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009. Print
- . *The Complete stories*, Nahum Norbert Glatzer. Trans. New York, Schocken, Schocken Books, 1995, 25-74. Print
- Kundera Milan *Ignorance* Linda Asher Trans. New York:HarperCollins, 2002. Print
- Madsen Ole Christian *Prague*. 2006. Film. Print
- Machar J.S. "Old Town Square" In. Delbos 83
- Neruda Jan *Prague Tales* Michael Henry Heim translated; introduction Ivan Klíma. Budapest: Central European University Press, 1996. Print
- Rilke Rainer Maria "King Bohusch" in *Two Stories of Prague*, Angela Esterhammer, trs., intro. 7-54, Hanover, N.H. : University Press of New England, 1994. Print
- . "Hradčany", „Out of Smíchov“ Delbos 36-7.
- Sova A. „Old and new Prague“, Delbos 34-35.
- Weil Jiří *Life with a Star*; preface Philip Roth ; Rita Klímová with Roslyn Schloss trans. [Život s hvězdou]. New York: Penguin Books, 1991. Print
- Wegener Paul. *Der Student von Prag*. 1913. Film. Or *Der Golem wie er in die Welt kam*. 1920. Film.

Secondary Sources

- Anderson, Mark (ed.). *Reading Kafka. Prague, Politics and the Fin de Siècle*. New York: Schocken, 1989.

- Bachelard, Gaston. Etienne Gilson (foreword) *The Poetics of Space*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1964 <1958>
- Bakhtin Mikhail "Forms of Time and of the Chronotope in the Novel". *The Dialogic Imagination: Four Essays*. Ed. Michael Holquist. Trans. Caryl Emerson and Michael Holquist. Austin and London: University of Texas Press. 1981: 243-258.
- Barthes, Roland „Semiology and Urbanism“ in *The Semiotic Challenge*. Richard Howard (trans.) New York: Hill and Wang, 1988 <1985>: 191-201.
- Becker, Sabina. *Urbanität und Moderne. Studien zur Großstadtswahrnehmung in der deutschen Literatur 1900 – 1930*. St. Ingbert: Röhrig, 1993.
- Benjamin, Walter. „Paris, die Hauptstadt des XIX Jahrhunderts“ *Illuminationen*. Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp, 1977: 170-184.
- . "The Return of the Flâneur" (1929) [Walter Benjamin. *Selected Writings II 1927-1934*. Trans. Rodney Livingstone et al. Eds. Michael W. Jennings, Howard Eiland, and Gary Smith. Cambridge, MA: Harvard, 1999.]
- <http://fairuselab.net/accessibility/walter-benjamin-the-return-of-the-flaneur-1929/> accessed 02/09/2012
- Becker, Veronika. *Das emotionale Moment der Veränderung. Stadt als Dichtung*. Bonn: Bouvier, 1999.
- Bridge Gary and Watson Sophie eds. *The Blackwell City Reader*. Malden, Oxford, and Melbourne: Blackwell, 2002
- Brodsky, Boris "The Psychology of Urban Design in the 1920's and 1930's," *The Journal of Decoration and Propaganda Art*, 1987, no 5:81
- Burton Richard. *Prague : a cultural history* Northampton, MA : Interlink Books, c2009.
- Calvino, Italo. *Invisible Cities*. London: Picador, 1979.
- Caws Mary Ann: *City Images*, New York Gordon and Breach, 1991
- Demetz, Peter. *Prague in Black and Gold. Scenes from the Life of a European City*. New York: Hill and Wang, 1997.
- . *René Rilkes Prager Jahre*. Düsseldorf: Diedrichs, 1953. PT 2635I65Z663
- . *Prague in Danger : the Years of German Occupation, 1939-45, Memories and History, Terror and Resistance, Theater and Jazz, Film and Poetry, Politics and War*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008.
- Doležel, Lubomír. *Narrative Modes in Czech Literature*. Toronto: University of Toronto, 1973.
- Ellul, Jacques. *The Meaning of the City*. Grand Rapids Mich: Eerdmans, 1970.
- French Alfred. *Czech writers and politics 1945-1969*. Canberra: Australian National University Press, 1982.
- . *The Poets of Prague: Czech Poetry between the Wars*. London, New York: Oxford University Press, 1969.
- Gelley, Alexander. "City Texts: Representation, Semiology, Urbanism." In *Politics, Theory and Contemporary Culture*. New York: Columbia UP, 1993.
- Gleber, Anke "Female Flanerie and the *Symphony of the City*. In *Women in the Metropolis* Katharina von Ankum ed. Berkeley, University of California Press, 1997, 67-88.
- Gottdiener, M. and Alexandros PH. Lagopulos, eds. *The City and the Sign. An Introduction to Urban Semiotics*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1986.
- Kosík, Karel. "Hašek and Kafka, or, the World of the Grotesque" in *The Crisis of Modernity. Essays and Observations from the 1968 Era*. James H. Satterwhite, ed. London: Rowman & Littlefield, 1995: 77- 86. DB 2218.7K671995

- Lehan, Richard *The City in Literature, An Intellectual and Cultural History*. Berkeley, U of California Press, 1998
- Lotman, Yuri M. *Universe of the Mind: A Semiotic Theory of Culture*. Trans. Ann Shukman. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1990 Miles Malcolm *Cities and Cultures* London, Routledge, 2007.
- Ripellino, Angelo Mario. *Magic Prague*. Trans. David Newton Marinelli. Ed. M .H. Heim. Berkeley: U of California P, 1994.
- Sayer, Derek. *The Coasts of Bohemia. A Czech History*. Princeton: Princeton U. P., 1998.
- . (2002) "Surrealities." In: *Central European Avant-Gardes: Exchange and Transformation 1910-1930*. Los Angeles County Museum of Art/MIT Press.
- Spector, Scott. *Prague Territories. National Conflict and Cultural Innovation in Franz Kafka's Fin de Siècle*. Berkeley University of California Press, 2000.
- Squier, Susan Merrill. *Women Writers and the City*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1984.
- Stalybrass, Peter "The City: the Sewer, the Gaze and the Contaminating Touch" In *The Politics and Poetics of Transgression*. Ithaca, New York Cornell UP, 1993.
- Wechsberg, Joseph. *Prague. The Mystical City*. New York: Macmillan, 1971.
- Williams, Raymond. *The Country and the City*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1973.
- Wilson, Paul, *Prague*, San Francisco: Whereabouts Press, 1995
- Wirth-Nesher, Hana. *City Codes. Reading the Modern Urban Novel*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.
- . "Impartial Maps: Reading and Writing Cities" [Handbook of urban studies \[electronic resource\] / edited by Ronan Paddison](#). London ; Thousand Oaks, Calif. : SAGE, 2001. 52-66